

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01983 021133Z

11

ACTION PPT-01

INFO OCT-01 VO-03 ISO-00 NEA-09 INSE-00 SCA-01 H-01 /016 W

----- 117371

P R 021015Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 439

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEHRAN 1983

ATHENS: PLS PASS INS MR. PAPPAS

PLEASE PASS TO MR. MIKLOS C/O NEA/IRN FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, CPAS, IR

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF BAHAI MARRIAGES

REF: TEHRAN 1861, 1905 (NOTAL)

1. GOI FONMIN, WHILE CONCERNED ABOUT EMB PRACTICES NOTED REFTELS, ALSO COMPLAINED OF EMB POLICY OF RECOGNIZING VALIDITY OF BAHAI MARRIAGES, FOR PURPOSES ISSUANCE F-2, J-2, ETC. AND IMMIGRANT VISAS.

2. BACKGROUND: GOI RECOGNIZES FOUR RELIGIONS: ISLAM, CHRISTIAN, JEWISH, ZOROASTRIAN. HOWEVER, BAHAI NOT RPT NOT RECOGNIZED, AND BAHAI MARRIAGES NOT REGISTERED BY GOVT REGISTRARS. ONLY "OFFICIAL" RECORD OF BAHAI MARRIAGES IS LETTER ISSUED BY SECRETARY OF BAHAI CHURCH IN IRAN, SETTING FORTH NAMES OF PARTIES, DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE, ETC. SUCH LETTERS HAVE NOW BECOME WELL KNOWN TO CONSOFFS.

3. BECAUSE GOI OFFICIALLY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE BAHAI MARRIAGES, FONMIN COMPLAINED THAT IN ISSUING VISAS AS ABOVE-NOTED BASED ON SUCH MARRIAGES, EMB WAS IN EFFECT RECOGNIZING SUCH MARRIAGES WHEN GOI DOES NOT.

4. QUESTION APPARENTLY FIRST AROSE 1969 OR 1970, WHEN CONSOFF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 TEHRAN 01983 021133Z

REPORTEDLY SUBMITTED BAHAI MARRIAGE LETTER TO INS-ATHENS AFTER

CONSOFF DETERMINED THAT FORM I-130 PETITION BASED ON SUCH LETTER COULD NOT BE APPROVED AT EMB TEHRAN. ACCORDING TO LOCAL EMB EMPLOYEE, INS-ATHENS APPROVED THE PETITION AND SAID EMB COULD CONTINUE TO DO SO. EMB HAS CONTINUED TO DO SO TO DATE.

5. QUESTION NOW IS WHETHER DEPT. HAS ANY OBJECTION TO EMB'S CONTINUING SAID PRACTICE, IN VIEW OF FONMIN'S QUESTIONING OF IT. EMB WELL AWARE THAT US GOVT VISA REGULATIONS, AND ESP. DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS, ARE NOT A PROPER SUBJECT FOR CONCERN OF FONGOVT., BUT EMB WOULD LIKE TO RESOLVE MATTER IN AS AMICABLE A MANNER AS POSSIBLE, AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S ADVICE.

6. FYI: (1) LAW WHICH RECOGNIZES ONLY FOUR RELIGIONS IN IRAN IS PART OF PATTERN OF GENTLE RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BAHAI IN IRAN.

(2) EVEN GOI IN EFFECT RECOGNIZES VALIDITY OF THESE MARRIAGES, SINCE, AS EMB IS INFORMED, GOI PPT OFFICE ISSUES PPTS TO BAHAIS, AND INCLUDES WIFE IN HUSBAND'S PPT, EVEN THOUGH BOTH ARE BAHAI, AND MARRIAGE WAS BAHAI MARRIAGE. APPARENTLY THIS IS DONE BY HAVING THE COUPLE WRITE OUT AN AFFIDAVIT AT THE TIME THEY APPLY FOR PPT, SAYING THEY ARE IN FACT MARRIED. PPT OFFICE THEN ISSUES PPT BASED ON THAT AFFIDAVIT, RATHER THAN ON CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE. IF DEPT. CONCURS EMB WOULD PROPOSE TO GOI FONMIN THAT THESE DOCUMENTS, ACCEPTED BY FONMIN. MIGHT ALSO BE ACCEPTABLE TO EMB, IN LIEU OF MARRIAGE LETTER DESCRIBED ABOVE.

7 DEPT'S COMMENTS AND CONCURRENCE PROPOSAL PARA 6 ABOVE REQUESTED.
HELMS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN01983
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750073-0377
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750390/aaaaddre.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PPT
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TEHRAN 1861, 75 1905
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <10 Jun 2003 by MorefiRH, INA>; RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>; APPROVED <19 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECOGNITION OF BAHAI MARRIAGES
TAGS: CVIS, CPAS, IR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006